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## A CASE OF NEURALGIA.

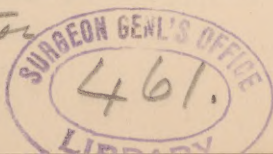
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THE following case is of interest as one of acute neuralgia of the face terminating favorably. At the time I was treating him I thought it was due to syphilis; I still think that was the probable cause, though there was no history of a hard chancre. The patient was a very large, strong man, and seemed as though he had had good health before this attack of neuralgia. It is of special interest to notice the large amount of medicine he took. The doses were given only while the pain continued; they were not pushed beyond the necessity of the case. The orders were to stop the medicine when the pain ceased. The aconitia was in the form of small pills, as put up by one of the houses who put up such drugs, whose remedies I have given in other cases with entire satisfaction; and there is no reason to suppose that in this case they were not as good as in other cases.

The lesson to be drawn from this case is not that we can give large doses in every case of neuralgia; but that when the pain is not relieved by ordinary doses, we are justified in increasing the dose or the frequency of its administration until we obtain the desired relief or the physiological effect is fully obtained.

In this case I believe that without the heroic dosing relief would not have been obtained. I gave more than I otherwise should have, because I thought the neuralgia was the indication of commencing syphilitic changes which it was desirable to check at once before

presented by the author



new-formed tissue had become too firmly organized to remove.

Another point of interest is that before the neuralgia he had been subject to attacks of asthma. While suffering from the pain in the face there was no asthma; but that returned after the pain had ceased.

Mr. — was seen in 1885. He had a sunstroke about twenty years before I saw him. Once he had an abscess in the groin, but does not know that he ever had syphilis. He had gonorrhœa twice, some time after the sunstroke, he does not know just when; his hair fell out in spots. About three years ago he had pain in the right side of his face, at times severe, would last a few months almost continuously. He had had two stumps of teeth out, and had had the bone scraped without relief to the pain. He could not take morphia. He had taken much chloral. The paroxysms of pain came about every five minutes; were very severe. At times he was almost wild with the pain; he could not keep still; he seized the side of his face, and rolled about and groaned; every motion showed extreme agony while the pain lasted.

When I first saw him I prescribed sulphate of quinine, five grains every hour, and one two-hundredth of a grain of aconitia every two hours unless the lips or tongue tingled. I saw him again in the evening when the pain was still as bad as in the morning. The pain radiated over the whole right side of the face. I gave him a subcutaneous injection of four minims of a four per cent. solution of cocaine as near the seat of the pain as possible, and in ten minutes repeated the same. There was considerable relief. He said he had not had so easy a half-hour since he left home. Soon after I gave him a subcutaneous injection of a sixtieth of a grain of atropia in the arm, and half an hour later the same amount into the right temple. I prescribed ten

grains of iodide of potassium every three hours and an eighth of a grain of corrosive sublimate three times a day.

February 11th. He had a rather easy day, though considerable pain at times. He took a large amount of liquid food. It was impossible for him to take solid food, as the act of chewing brought on the paroxysms of pain. At the visit in the evening I injected seven minims of the cocaine and a fiftieth of a grain of atropia. For the night I prescribed forty-eight grains of chloral to be followed in four hours by thirty-six grains more if needed.

February 12th, *Morning*. A restless night. Not severe pain. Slept about four hours. He had had seventy grains of iodide during the previous day and night. During the day he was to have one two-hundredth of a grain of aconitia every hour till he had had three doses; then every two hours until the lips or tongue tingled. Quinine, five grains every hour, and increase the iodide of potassium to twenty grains every three hours. *Evening*. During the day he was hungry, and took a good supply of food. He had only two severe attacks of pain in the afternoon; he had been up and about the room considerably. He looked much better and talked about going home. During the day he had taken one hundred grains of the iodide; had taken the aconitia as ordered, without any tingling; he was slightly deaf from the quinine. The quinine and aconitia were omitted for the night. I injected under the skin six minims of the cocaine solution and one-thirtieth of a grain of atropia. After twenty minutes I injected five minims more of the cocaine. (The cocaine was in the face and temple and the atropia in the arm.) Some minutes later the pulse was 72. During the night he was to have forty-eight grains of chloral, and in four hours the same repeated, if needed.



February 13th, *Morning*. Yesterday he had nine eggs, three bowls of gruel, about three quarts of milk in all. Slept six hours during the night. Dropped cocaine solution into right ear with relief to the pain. Face was numb. Pulse 84. To continue the quinine and aconitia as yesterday. *Evening*. Had three attacks of pain during the day. Injected eight minims of cocaine and a fortieth of a grain of atropia.

February 14th, *Evening*. He was asleep when I made the morning call. He slept about seven hours during the night. Yesterday he took eight eggs, two quarts of milk, three bowls of gruel and a little hash. No pain this morning. He talked this afternoon, which brought on the pain. I injected ten minims of cocaine and one-fortieth of a grain of atropia. It takes him about an hour to get quiet after the injection.

February 15th, *Morning*. Slept about six hours. Had only two attacks of pain, not severe. Ice to the neck seemed to relieve the pain. He had no chloral till five o'clock. *Evening*. Quiet this morning, pain this afternoon quite severe, but not so hard as a few days since. In last twenty-four hours had had ten eggs, three quarts of milk, five bowls of gruel, one bowl of soup and four small slices of milk toast. To-day took thirty-five grains of quinine.

February 16th, *Morning*. Only slept three or four hours; much pain now. Injected a fortieth grain of atropia. To take the aconitia every hour till three doses, then every two hours, and five grains quinine every hour. (The aconitia had not been given for a day or two.) *Evening*. Pain all the forenoon; easier this afternoon. Has had six eggs, two quarts of milk, one bowl chicken-broth. Took five doses of aconitia, the quinine thirteen times, and then was deaf. Injected one-fortieth grain atropia.

February 17th, *Morning*. Slept only one hour.

Considerable pain but no hard attacks. The poor sleep probably was due to his not having the chloral. Eyes were a little red, so the iodide was given only every four hours. The aconitia and quinine were continued as yesterday. *Evening.* No severe pain; two hours in the afternoon entirely free. Had seven eggs, three quarts milk, one quart chicken-broth, quarter pound oyster crackers, two slices bread, half a pint tomato soup. Had during the day nine doses aconitia; quinine was stopped at 2 P. M. Injected one-thirtieth grain atropia.

February 18th, *Morning.* Slept seven hours, without anything. One attack of pain. Is easy this morning. Give the iodide every three hours. *Evening.* Had five eggs, three quarts of milk, chicken-broth with the chicken cut up in it, two large slices of bread. In pain at visit.

February 19th, *Morning.* Slept only one hour. No pain during visit. No aconitia till 1 P. M. *Evening.* Easy day. Had aconitia every two hours after 1 P. M. Quinine every hour till three doses, then every two hours. He has taken up to this morning (eight days and a half), three ounces of iodide of potassium. No atropia to-night.

February 20th. Slept nine hours last night and this morning. To increase the corrosive sublimate to one-sixth of a grain three times a day.

February 21st. Easy night. Slept six hours.

February 23d. Night before last slept seven hours. No pain for eighteen hours. It began again about two yesterday afternoon, and was severe till half-past four this morning. Took ten doses of aconitia and quinine. Easy to-day, but some pain.

February 25th. Night before last seven hours sleep. Yesterday, pain from four to eleven, then easy, slept six or seven hours.

He had more or less pain at times. On the 28th, it is noted that he had had no pain for nearly forty-eight hours. On March 7th he had had no pain during three nights. Soon after this he went home. He was heard from until April; he had had no more pain, but then he had an attack of asthma such as he had been accustomed to before he had the neuralgia.



